

## GENERAL SYNOD

## Report on the Archbishops' Council's Activities

**Introduction**

The Archbishops' Council presents this report on its activities since the General Synod Meeting in November 2020. It has met three times on 8 and 9 December 2020, 22 January 2021 and 22 March 2021.

**Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, 8 and 9 December 2020, held by Zoom**

1. The Council was given an update of the different strands of the **Emerging Church** work, including the Vision and Strategy, Governance Review and Transforming Effectiveness.
2. The Council reviewed the **Business Plan** for 2021. It also considered the **Risk Register** and the outline plan for the Annual Report 2020.
3. The Council reviewed a number of **finance matters**, including an update on the situation within dioceses as a result of the Covid pandemic.
4. The Council were given an update on the recent developments on **Safeguarding**, including the plans for independence of national safeguarding functions and the pilot interim support scheme.
5. The Council considered a number of items relating to **Ministry**. This included a presentation on the Vision for Lay Ministry and the review into resourcing ministerial formation.
6. The Council discussed its responsibilities in relation to appointments to other bodies, and how to enable more diverse candidates.
7. The Council approved a number of **deemed items** of business, including Salary Sacrifice Arrangements, Central Stipends Authority Report, Cultural Recovery Grant and National Ministry Register (Clergy) Regulations.

**Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, 22 January 2021, held by Zoom**

8. The Council discussed the **Emerging Church** work strands, including revised strategic risks and 2021 business plan in light of this work. The Council was given an update on progress on Vision and Strategy, Governance Review Group and Transforming Effectiveness.
9. There was an update on **Finance**, including a further update on diocesan finances.
10. The Council was given an update on the **Growing Faith** strategy, particularly in relation to how it links in with the work on the sub-group of Younger and more diverse of the Vision and Strategy work.
11. The Council were provided with an update on **Safeguarding**, including an update on proposals for independence of national safeguarding functions.
12. The Council discussed the **board effectiveness, culture and behaviours** of the Council.
13. The Council approved one **deemed item** of business: Clergy Remuneration Review.

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**Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, 22 March 2021, held by Zoom**

14. The Council reviewed progress on the **Emerging Church** work strands which include the Vision and Strategy and Transforming Effectiveness strands. The Council was also invited to comment on the models that the Governance Review Group had drafted.
15. The Council were given an update on the **Resourcing Ministerial Formation** review.
16. There was an update on **Finance**. The Council approved the Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2020. The Council was also given an update on the progress for the 2022 budget and the impact of the Strategic Development Fund. There was an update on diocesan finances. There was an update on **Safeguarding**, including an update on the programme for managing Safeguarding projects, including the independence of national safeguarding functions.
17. The Council discussed the outline of the report by the **Anti-Racism Task Force**.
18. The Council approved two **deemed items** of business: Appointments by the Council and the Administration of Legacies.

**Council Membership**

19. Elections took place in December 2020 as the term of office for the elected members of the Archbishops' Council ended in January 2021.
20. The House of Bishops re-elected the Rt Revd Martin Seeley, Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich; and elected the Rt Revd Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham
21. The House of Clergy re-elected the Revd Dr Ian Paul and elected the Revd Timothy Goode.
22. The House of Laity re-elected James Cary and elected Dr Rachel Jepson.
23. The Archbishops' Council expressed their thanks to the Revd Preb Sarah Schofield and Adrian Greenwood for their service to the Council at the end of their term of office in January 2021, and for Revd Canon Chris Newlands who retired in March 2021.

Church House, Westminster, SW1P 3AZ  
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William Nye LVO  
Secretary General